



Leaves of Healing

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Robert and Josephine
Peterson

Report of Missionary Trip

Made By General Overseer and Mrs. Roger W. Ottersen and
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Peterson to
England, Egypt, Israel, South Africa, and Venezuela



General Overseer Roger W.
Ottersen and wife,
Gayleene

On October 23rd, Overseer and Gayleene Ottersen and Robert and Josephine Peterson left Zion for a six-week missionary tour to visit our missionaries, church representatives, churches and missions in England, Egypt, Israel, and South Africa. By way of report, each will share their impressions concerning what they saw and experienced, beginning with Mrs. Peterson.

Report of Josephine Peterson

"My strength cometh from the Lord." I want to praise and thank the Lord for loving me enough to send His Son to die for me. I also praise Him for making it possible for me to go on this missionary trip. Through this trip the Lord answered the prayer of a little child many years ago. At an early age the song, "I'll Go Where You Want Me To Go, Dear Lord" became a favorite with me and I asked the Lord to someday let me visit the mission field. God heard and in His own time answered that prayer.

Our missionary trip was one that was filled with blessings and joys untold. There were some difficult times during the trip but these were greatly over-

shadowed by the wonderful, joyous, and beautiful times our Lord gave us. I want to thank each of you for your faithful prayers. One of the things I learned on this missionary trip was just how very much missionaries and the missions themselves depend on our faithful prayers. Should you ever feel a burden to pray for one specific missionary or perhaps a special mission at any time, do immediately pray for it could be the Holy Spirit's prompting because of a definite need.

All of our mission stops were very interesting and valuable experiences. It has been really hard to know what to share because there is so much to tell and so little time to tell it. But, in seeking the Lord's will and in praying and wondering what to share, visions of Bethlehem kept coming most to my mind. I remember how I had been almost overwhelmed at the wonder of actually being in my Savior's birthplace as we entered the city of Bethlehem. One can see the shepherds' fields from the Nassar home and also the Church of the Nativity. Gazing at those shepherds' fields you can let your mind go back all those years and envision the shepherds as they watched their flocks by night on the special, special night, the night of Jesus' birth.

The Nassar family live in the house

of Jesse and the well is just outside their kitchen door. By constant use through hundreds of years the stone has been worn smooth and is deeply grooved by all those footprints that have been there. Mrs. Nassar is a sweet and loving person. She speaks very little English and we speak no Arabic so it was very difficult to communicate with her. She still has six children at home. George, 23 and Dahar, 27, are the two brothers who have taken over their father's work for the Christian Catholic Church. I was very impressed with their sincerity and their love for the Lord and their great desire to share Christ with others. George speaks English very well and Dahar does quite well with it, too. We were privileged to attend one of their meetings in the nearby town of Batjala and this particular meeting was held in a living room of one of the people. It was well attended by all ages, from wee babies through grandparents and all listened very attentively to Dahar's message. The people were so delighted that General Overseer Ottersen had taken the time to visit with them and bring them a message from the Bible and greetings from Zion headquarters.

I feel we need to pray for protection for Dahar and George as they go about their work. Living on the West Bank they are constantly watched by the military. Their car license plate is blue indicating they are from the West Bank, and can be stopped at any time by police or the military for questioning. Also, they must have their car back in the West Bank area by 10 p.m. each night or be in serious trouble. The Nassar family live on a very limited income. Though their car is old and not very dependable, Dahar makes three or four trips for each meeting of the three congregations they have, bringing people both to and from the meetings. Both George and Dahar wish to have more tapes, books and literature to help them be better Bible students and better teachers of others. They were so glad to receive our booklet, "This We Believe" and I feel this will be of good help to them.

South Africa is a beautiful country. The people are beautiful, too, as you see the love of Jesus shining out of their faces. The joy of worshipping with them is something I can't explain to you. It is just tremendous. They are so sincere. The love of Jesus shows in their faces and they showed such love to us and were so glad we had come. The pastors were glad to hear about the Christian Catholic Church in Zion and were eager to receive copies of "This We Believe". You know, I truly believe this is one of God's answers to prayer for the many Amazioni churches for through it they can not only learn basic Christian teaching but they can learn something about our history, too, and how they are related to us, and that is good because all these years they haven't understood it. The Mahons are now translating "This We Believe" into Zulu and two other African languages. Can you imagine the hours that it is taking for them to completely translate "This We Believe" into three languages? You know, the Mahons are so happy to do it, because, as Edgar said, in that way many more people will find the Lord. How grateful we should be that our Amazioni people trust the Mahons and will accept them as our representatives.

The Mahons have over 300 churches under their own care yet are constantly reaching out to help the people who call themselves "The People of Zion in America." Even the day before we arrived Edgar had traveled many miles to take the funeral of an Amazioni pastor whose congregation had asked him to come. During our three and a half

week visit in South Africa, Edgar and Netta put aside their responsibilities to travel thousands of miles with us to be sure we saw and visited as many congregations as possible. Lyle Mahon and Gerry and Elsie Lee also traveled some with us. Edgar has such a rapport with the Zulu people. He speaks Zulu and three other languages fluently. The people really love, respect, and listen to him. My feeling is that we in Zion must somehow do more than keep them on our prayer list though we all know how very important prayer is. Somehow, through God's help, we need to send them more support. First, they need more personal support for just basic necessities. One of the ways they have managed to get by as well as they have is that Edgar is an expert mechanic and he buys old cars for spare parts and does all the mechanical work on the cars himself.

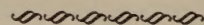
Secondly, we need to send money to help them pay for the things they do for the Christian Catholic Church in South Africa. These are our people and they are ministering to them in our behalf.

Third, we need to send support to assist young Amazioni pastors to receive Bible School training.

I really came to love those dear black brothers and sisters there and I pray that I will always keep them before the Lord in prayer. Their customs and way

of life are very different, but their love for the Lord is the same. One of the young pastors said shortly before we were leaving, "We had wondered about the Church in Zion and are so glad to see you. We are glad, too, that the Lord has put it in your hearts to come see us here, to walk where we walk, to see the bushes we live in, and to see the churches we worship in."

I do thank my heavenly Father for the day-to-day experiences He gave me through this whole trip. I thank Him for keeping me in perfect peace throughout the trip. It seems I was always learning more about that perfect peace, for instance, when we saw the heavy security guard of soldiers with guns ready that surrounded our Israeli plane on the ground. They were with us when we boarded and they followed clear to the end of the runway. When we touched down in Nairobi the same security was taken. When we left Nairobi and landed in Johannesburg there was the same security, and yet I honestly can say God gave me perfect peace and I didn't worry one bit. And to think that it wasn't too many years ago when I had to actually talk myself onto an airplane! I enjoyed all our flights. They were beautiful, for God saw to that. God is wonderful, and I just want always to be ready to follow His leading and to do His work.



Report of Gayleene Ottersen

Psalm 26:7 *That I may publish with a voice of thanksgiving and tell all of Thy wondrous works.* Isaiah 25:1 *O Lord, Thou art my God; I will exalt Thee, I will praise Thy name for Thou hast done wonderful things.*

Already you know that the Lord did do so many wonderful things for us. I especially think, as Jo said, of His safekeeping and protection. During the seven weeks we were away we had nine air flights taking us up in the air for over 55 hours and we covered more than 25,000 miles. Also, we traveled by car, by bus, and by boat. In South Africa alone we drove over 6,000 miles by car. As I think of the many different taxi drivers we had, we were really entrusting our lives to a lot of different people. There were times when it was quite exciting and I think all four of us would agree that it was a small miracle that we made it even through Cairo.

Cairo is a city of 7 million people and it seemed like every one of them had a car with a very good horn on it. Even though they had stoplights and stop signs, few ever stopped. We questioned one of the taxi drivers as to why they don't stop and he just said, "It's just a big waste of time. We just honk the horn and go on through." You can imagine what a challenge it was to walk across the street. You just had to wait until a group gathered and you felt the cars wouldn't want to run into all of you and then all crossed the street together. Cairo was a very noisy city with horns honking day and night.

We thank the Lord for the trip and for the wonderful people we met. Often we have missionaries come to us to share of their experiences and work, but I really counted it a privilege to go and to see first hand, to live with these missionaries, and to be involved with

them for a short time. We just "scratched the surface" you might say, but it was thrilling to see and know what they were and are doing.

In Egypt, Randy Capp showed us around as Nancy was still in the states. As we walked the streets of their little village of Maadi, it was thrilling to see how in so short a time Randy has made such good progress in the Arabic language and has learned to relate so well to the people. As we walked down the streets some of the shopkeepers would say, "Good morning, Mr. Capp." They knew him! As we were with him a young teenage boy came up and talked to Randy and said, "I really need some counsel, can I come back and see you at home?" Randy has also learned to become a really good bargainer. So many things in Egypt and the Cairo area do not have fixed prices. Even when we hired a taxi to take us somewhere for the day, Randy would say, "You stay in the hotel lobby and I'll go out and see about getting us a cab." He didn't want us to see what one has to go through to get a reasonable price. He said, "You are going to think I am arguing and about to get into a fight but it is just a way of doing things." One thing that did have a set price was roses and Jo and I received a little treat. Randy showed the men where there was a store in his village where you could get beautiful tea roses for 90¢ a dozen. That was a treat because the hotel we were staying in was rather dirty and dingy so it was thrilling to have those beautiful roses to brighten up the room.

We had the privilege, too, of visiting the Middle East Media office where Randy works and meeting the whole team that works on the magazine. We attended one of their missionary prayer meetings and were able to share with them in their prayer time. We were especially impressed with the team unity and spirit of oneness.

As Jo said, about half our time was spent in South Africa. I just have to add that I don't believe I have ever met a more gracious, loving, kind, and hard-working couple than Edgar and Netta Mahon. I had talked with them here just briefly but being in their home and going with them like we did for almost three weeks was a rare privilege. They love the people and the people really love and respect them.

I'm sure many of you are aware of the name of the Mahon Mission Headquarters. It is called "Etembeni", which means, "a place of trust." And

it really is. Hundreds of people come there for many different reasons. At 6:30 in the morning there will be someone standing outside the back door with a need. One afternoon a boy was rushed in from the school situated on the grounds. He had been sawing some wood and had cut his finger. Netta took care of it. Time and time again, someone needed to get to the hospital. One lady needed to get to the hospital quickly to have a baby and needed the Mahons to make all the arrangements. Thus, so many have found at Etembeni a real place of trust and help and love.

The Zulus, as well as many other South African people were so kind to us. Even in their poverty they went out of their way to see that we had things in the nicest possible way they could make it. Well, I tried to learn a few Zulu words. I asked Edgar to help me learn to say, "I thank you," in Zulu. One day I got up the nerve to use it. One of the pastor's wives had been so very sweet in serving and helping us. Of course, we couldn't communicate with her, but I thought I could at least tell her thank you in her own language. When I did she began chatting with me, not realizing I was not understanding a single word.

Over and over in the meetings, as Jo brought out, so many of the people expressed the joy that the people of Zion had cared enough to send us to them. They said, "Now the people around us will know that we really have a headquarters church in Zion, that there is someone who cares about us, that we have a beginning, that we have someone who is looking out for us."

Then there were some other words in Zulu that were special. In Zulu the term of respect for the man is, "Baba." And, for a woman, you would call her "Mama." Listening to them pray I could at least tell when they were thanking the Father. It gave me a little bit of insight into some of their prayers. Many of our Zion ministers were pleased that Roger and Bob had brought the Mamas along and they made very sure that even though we weren't able to meet in some of the small churches, we at least saw them. Many were very small, simple, and sometimes run-down buildings. They felt that if the mamas saw them they would remind their husbands and the church back home how greatly they need help.

One of the greatest tributes that the Zulu people can pay a woman is to call her a she-elephant. Edgar had told me

about this, so when in one of the first services we attended they introduced me to the people as the General Overseer's mama, the great she-elephant, I was really honored. This had happened to Netta once and she understood what it meant. Edgar remembered early in our stay there to explain this to me and I was glad he did because I would not have otherwise understood when they called me that.

It was also at the service where I was honored with the title of she-elephant, that we were given many lovely gifts. This again was very humbling because we were aware of the sacrifice behind these gifts. One thing that they gave me for Roger was a Zulu mat to sleep on. They told me to take it out under a tree in the cool shade on a hot summer day and put it down so that he could lay down and go to sleep. That's what they would do for their chief and that's what I was supposed to do. It was a very beautifully woven mat with bright colors - a mat really fit for a chief.

Just a few more things that impressed me about the Zulu people. They are such a singing people. They just sang and sang. When someone got up to speak, everyone would stand and sing. After two or three verses everyone would sit down except the speaker. When they took their offerings they sang the entire time, while people went to the front to give their offerings, and they sang until **everyone** had come up to the front.

The Zulu are very shy people. It took a bit of doing to get a smile out of them. But, at the end of every service both young and old would come by the front to shake our hands. Many times they would bow in front of you or curtsy or give you a special Zulu handshake which was actually three handshakes in one.

Roger and I had the privilege of having our birthdays in Africa, as many of you know, and we were truly overwhelmed when the mail started coming in. Those at Etembeni said that we were the visitors who got the most mail of anybody who had ever been there. We got eighty-four birthday cards and we were so thrilled and we want to thank all who wrote. We were also encouraged to know you were all praying for us.

Many times when the going was difficult we would think back eight hours to what you would be doing here in Zion. Sometimes it would be evening there and it would be noon here and we'd think, "Oh it's noon there and

they will be praying for us" or "It's morning there; they've got to be praying for us because the Lord is helping us in this situation."

On our way home we were privileged to visit Carolyn and David Switzer in Venezuela. It was really a blessing, and, it was a blessing to Carolyn to be able to share with us some very good news. She was privileged to be the one to tell us of a special surprise - that we weren't to be going home when we thought we were. She got to share with us the wonderful news that you friends here in Zion were sending our children to Florida to vacation with us before we got back into the rush of Christmas and work once we got back home. It was a very kind and thoughtful gesture

of love which we greatly appreciated.

It's marvelous to see how God is using David and Carolyn both at the Seminary and in the neighborhood where they live, as well as at the evangelical church where both of them serve through teaching and in many other ways.

Our time in Florida with the children was a blessed bonus. We had a lovely hotel within a few miles of Disney World. We were able to rent a car and the weather was just beautiful. We were told that it was unseasonably warm even for that time of year in Florida. So, there was sunshine and beautiful blue skies and we had a great time of relaxation and of just getting reacquainted. Disney World was

beautiful. If you have ever been there at Christmas time, it is like a fairyland. All of Main Street was aglow with lights and old-fashioned Christmas decorations. All of the stores were just beautiful day and night. It was a sight to behold, and, they weren't busy at that time. So, indeed it was just a wonderful treat and we thank all of you for it. We were so blessed and overwhelmed by it.

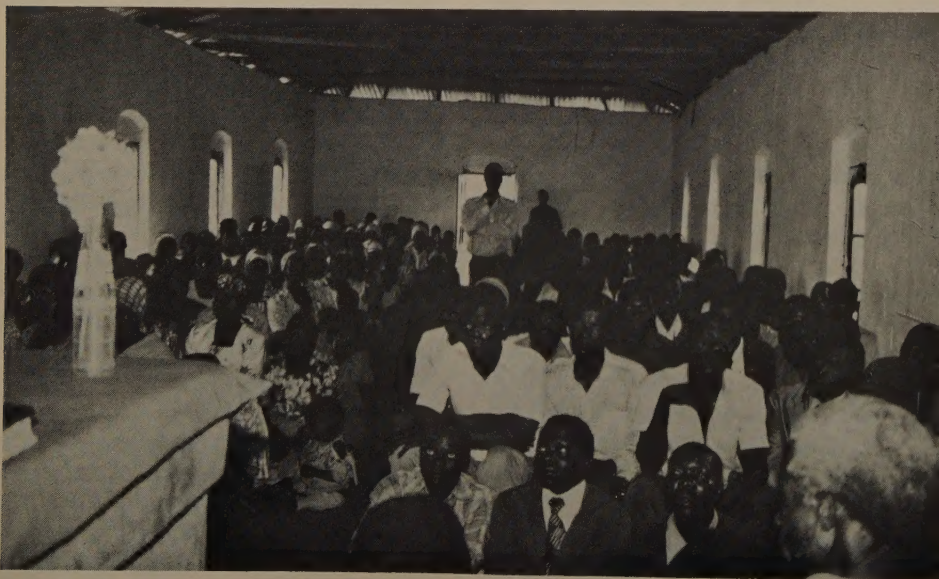
It is our prayer that we may all be challenged by what we have seen and experienced and learned from this trip. Through this trip I trust we will all feel a much closer bond of love and fellowship to our Christian Catholic Church brethren throughout southern Africa.



1. Lyle Mahon, General Overseer Ottersen, Edgar Mahon, and Pastor Zondi, a long-time Amazioni pastor now serving with the leadership of Mahon Mission at Mont Elias. Building provided by C.C.C. funds.



2. Christian Catholic Church near Lilongwe, Malawi congregation marching around church.



3. Inside church for afternoon service of C.C.C. near Lilongwe, capital of Malawi.



4. General Overseer Ottersen with Rev. Kaputa (on right) and one of his associates in Malawi.



5. Group of C.C.C. leaders assembling for afternoon service at Gingindlovu. Men frequently wear white uniforms with blue sash. Rev. A.S.B. Langa with robe on far left by Edgar Mahon.



8. Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Lee with Mahon Mission in South Africa.



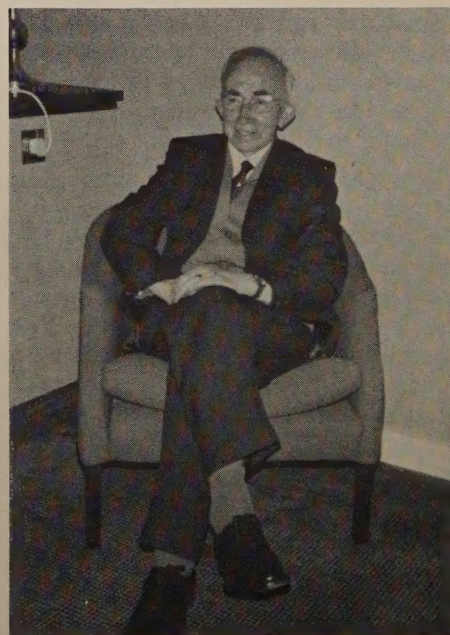
6. Typical dress of the Amazoni women throughout South Africa.



9. The Nassar Family (l. to r.: George, Dahar, Mrs. Nassar, Amel, David and Tony) with Josephine Peterson and General Overseer & Mrs. Ottersen in Bethlehem. Another daughter, Nadea not present for picture.



7. Amazoni church fellowship at Traje Nuju near Bloemfontein welcoming General Overseer and Mrs. Ottersen.



10. Rev. Arthur Murton representing Christian Catholic Church in England.

Report of Robert Peterson

First, I wish to bring you greetings from approximately thirty congregations in Africa even as I had the privilege of bringing greetings from you to them.

We surely had some tremendous experiences and I think Josephine and Gayleene have covered some of them pretty well.

As you know, we left here and went to England and spent three days there with Elder Murton. After that we flew down to Cairo. Our most difficult time of communicating with the nationals was in Egypt. Few of them speak English, and of course, we speak no Arabic. We were so happy to see Randy when we came off the plane. He started our indoctrination immediately with an Egyptian welcome, which is a kiss on a cheek.

The next day we visited the Cairo Museum and a couple of mosques. That night we visited an Egyptian couple in their apartment. They are part of the team Randy is working with, and both speak very good English. what a beautiful Christian couple. They are so dedicated to what they are doing. The wife gave up one of the best jobs a woman can have in Egypt just to work with this team.

Randy pointed out an orange and red sticker in a cab window and explained that it was an ad for their magazine. Later we saw hundreds and hundreds of these stickers in most of the cabs. It is certainly a very clever way of advertising the magazine with virtually no cost. A little later we visited the place Randy works and met most of the team members. They are a talented and dedicated team of workers and it was a great blessing to be with them for even a brief time.

We visited a Christian church in downtown Cairo and met the pastor. Randy attends there occasionally. The church once had beautiful stained glass windows but they have all been broken out by vandals except for one. The church had been built on the main square of the city, but this was too prominent a place in a Moslem country, so the Egyptians built a large, ugly police building in front of the church so it is pretty well hidden from view. We visited another place where there were several Coptic churches. Four popes are buried under one of them and in another there is a tomb claimed to be that of Saint Mark. It was a large church with 3,600 chairs in it. It was

built in 1968 and opened by Haile Selassie.

We attended a prayer meeting in the home of one of the people Randy works with. Roger gave the message and there was a time of fellowship afterward. We met two girls who had just returned from Israel. They had travelled overland which is a recent development. Previously you had to go by air or you didn't go. They had a wonderful time doing it. We said goodbye to all the people and to Randy as we were leaving for Israel early in the morning. The next morning we were up very early and went out to the airport only to learn that the flights were cancelled. Then back to Randy's. Boy, was he surprised when we arrived back there. After getting the best counsel available from all of his associates in Maadi, we decided to go overland across the Sinai as the girls in the prayer meeting had done. So, Randy's team purchased some fruit and haggled for a cab and we were off. Four hours later we arrived at the Suez. We boarded a ferry and were asked to see our passports, then told to get off. The ferry was not for Americans. We did what we were told, as he had the gun. We then drove to a pontoon bridge and waited. The Egyptians finally decided not to pull the thing across the canal so we went back to Cairo. Two days later we went to Israel with an Israeli tour group. That was a very interesting experience, going across the Sinai and seeing all the sights spoken of in the Bible, and also in the news over the past few years. All the broken and disabled tanks, trucks, etc. of the war had been left out there — a perfect place to go into the scrap-iron business.

After Israel we went to South Africa and spent the next three weeks with Edgar Mahon going place to place sharing the Gospel with thousands of people who call the Christian Catholic Church, Zion, their church and explaining what we believe and a little bit of church history and also of how the African church was started. God must have had Africa in mind when He caused our "This We Believe" booklet to be put together. It is exactly what they need and have wanted for seventy some years. Several times when Roger finished preaching, an African minister would say to the congregation, "See, there is a Christian Catholic Church in Zion. There are white people in it who care about us." He then asked, "Why have you left us so long? We've had no

one to guide us since 1924." Another one asked, "What did we do to cause you to abandon us?" Several said, "We know we are not worshiping in the proper way, but we have had nothing to go by and no one to teach us." I was unable to think of a good answer for these men and I noticed Pastor Ottersen was very quiet, also. These Zion people have been looked down upon because of their strange customs and many traditions and some of the people have even had doubts that there was a Christian Catholic Church in Zion. Most Amazioni people of Southern Africa have no church building and wear white robes with blue or green sashes. Many meet all Saturday night singing with the use of drums, preaching and exhorting the believers. There are thirty-six variations of the name "Christian Catholic Church Zion" registered with the South African government. They have used these names in every way imaginable trying to identify themselves as a church. There is little or no organization amongst the Amazioni, and each group is independent of other groups.

We simply could not have made the trip around South Africa without the Mahons. He interpreted for us in three languages and drove us over 6,000 miles to visit as many congregations as time and strength would permit. He arranged all the meetings and provided lodging and meals and everything we needed. Every other need, "Lovey" (Netta), took care of. I don't think there's a more qualified man than he to direct that work over there. However it became evident that he is terribly overworked and underpaid.

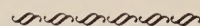
Toward the end of our time in South Africa, Edgar, Roger and I flew up to Malawi where we were met at the airport by Pastor Jeremiah, who was our interpreter and another pastor. They speak still another language up there called "Quaso". Jeremiah is an outstanding Christian. We were really impressed with him and grew to love him. It was 11 p.m. by the time we arrived at the town where Pastor Jeremiah lived and pastored a church and the people were still waiting there so we had a meeting. After this meeting we went over to a guest house that he had made arrangements for. In the morning we had another meeting before driving to another church very near to Lake Malawi which is a beautiful lake. We held two services there. The second service had the

largest number of people present, over eight hundred for a single service. The next day we also had a meeting at the same place with about three hundred and fifty present. Then we drove up to the capital of Malawi, which is Lilongwe. They have built a brand new capital there with very beautiful buildings. Up in Malanguay we had a meeting in the afternoon and that night we had a meeting in the town hall and there were a great many dignitaries present. In fact, one of them stated that the president himself, would have come, had he not had a prior commitment some distance away. That was

probably our second largest meeting as I counted over six hundred people inside and another eighty sitting by one door. We also went out into the country by Malanguay into a village of about four hundred people. They knew we were coming, so they chopped down banana trees and set them along side the road to honor us and also met us about a half-mile from the church waving banana leaves over the car, in front, and in back of us all the way into the village and church. It really was a tremendous experience in Malawi. They are such lovely people. Economically, they seemed to be far

below the living standard of the blacks in South Africa. Materially they were very poor, but in love, very rich. I shall never forget their faces and the love they showed us.

I know we face a very tight budget here with the need of cutting every expenditure that is not absolutely necessary. Yet I cannot but pray and hope that we may find some way of backing the Mahon Mission in a far greater way in their efforts to minister to these our brothers and sisters in the Christian Catholic Church throughout Southern Africa.



Report By Pastor Ottersen

I think the others have done a pretty good job of sharing insights. I just want to mention that we also bring you greetings from Elder Murton in England who continues a ministry of literature distribution and visitation.

In Egypt we were deeply moved with the ministry and workers of Middle East Media. They publish a magazine which is sold in the major cities of thirteen Muslim nations.

The experience Bob told about getting out of Egypt was an almost unbelievable one. I was very grateful that I had met a Jewish man across the hall in the hotel and found out that he was from America but had emigrated to Israel. I didn't realize at the time that I would ever need him or even meet him again, but later, when we were unable to get out of the country, I remembered our friend. He was a member of a bus tour group from Jerusalem. We were able to join this group and cross the Sinai with them. It was certainly a provision of the Lord. By that time I was about ready to see President Sadat and tell him to "let my people go."

I want to mention Israel. One of my big concerns had been to visit Dahar and George Nassar. Their father had served for many years as pastor of the Christian Catholic Church in Bethlehem before his death. His two sons had continued the work, and I was very eager to meet them and the Nassar family. Well, I am very happy to report that these men are doing an outstanding job. Dahar is 27 and works full time in the ministry of the Christian Catholic Church, serving three congregations in and around Bethlehem. But they cannot operate like we do because it is illegal to pro-

pagate Christianity in Israel. They cannot distribute literature, put out signs, or in other ways advertize their meetings or evangelize openly. It was a blessed experience visiting with Mrs. Nassar and the family and sharing a worship service with one of the congregations. Mrs. Nassar also sent greetings to the fellowship here.

South Africa is an experience we will never forget. We were met in Johannesburg by Edgar and Netta Mahon. Harold and Audrey Mason, formerly of Zion, also came to meet us there. We were so glad to see them all and we had a lovely time of fellowship before leaving for Etembeni, some hours of driving from Johannesburg.

The Mahon Mission operates in South Africa and has over 300 congregations. They have trained native pastors who are supported by a central fund from the tithes and offerings of their churches. The Mahon Mission helps them in establishing sites for the churches, in construction of church buildings, in Bible school training, and with literature. Gerry and Elsie Lee have done a magnificent job in preparing Bible lessons covering most of the Bible and now the Baptist Missionary Society along with the Mahon Mission have published them in English, Zulu and other languages. The Mahon Mission has divided their work into ten districts and there are anywhere from 25 to 38 churches in each of these districts. The missionaries have responsibility in specific districts. I agree with Bob that they are doing a magnificent job and should be highly commended. They have one of the largest black ministries in South Africa. A member of the Evangelical Alliance Mission expressed to me that the Mahon Mission has more trained native pastors than

they have members.

The Christian Catholic Church in South Africa had a unique and God-ordained beginning. About the turn of the century, two Dutch Reformed pastors, Johannes Buchler of Johannesburg and P.J. Le Roux, some distance away, came independently through the study of the scriptures, to believe in believer baptism. For teaching this to their congregations, they were dis-fellowshipped. They came together and took the name, "Zion", from the use of a little hymnal in Dutch language, called, "Zion's Songs." They also conducted healing meetings. When Edgar Mahon, a Salvation Army Captain and brother-in-law to Johannes Buchler, became seriously ill with tuberculosis, Rev. Buchler was led of God to pray for him and he was healed. After being taught about believer baptism and divine healing, Rev. Mahon also joined with the other two.

Having been introduced to the "Leaves of Healing" by Dr. John Alexander Dowie in Zion, Illinois, Rev. Buchler made a trip to Zion and met with Dr. Dowie. As a result of that trip, Dr. Dowie sent out Elder Daniel Bryant, and for the next four years, all four worked together in a spirit of unity and harmony. When the leadership of the Christian Catholic Church changed in Zion from Dr. Dowie to Wilbur Glenn Voliva, Elder Bryant returned home and became part of a splinter group, later known as Grace Missionary Church. Meanwhile, in South Africa, Pentecostalism was introduced and was embraced by P.J. Le Roux which caused him to separate himself from the Christian Catholic Church and begin a new work known as the Apostolic Faith Mission.

The Apostolic Faith Mission work was mainly among white South Africans; although they later developed a missionary arm of that work among black Africans. Daniel Nkonyane, an associate of P.J. Le Roux and dynamic Zulu leader, refused to change the name of his church which was known as the Zion Christian Catholic Apostolic Church, having taken on the full name of Dr. Dowie's work in Zion, Illinois. Through Daniel Nkonyane and subsequent followers, the Amazioni churches multiplied and spread throughout southern Africa.

In Zion, four or five other splinter groups of the Christian Catholic Church continued, each claiming to be the true and legitimate "Zion." Some of these splinter groups continued a correspondance with some of the "Zion" churches in South Africa, even ordaining workers in Africa, which also led to confusion both here and there.

The Amazioni are easily distinguishable by their characteristic white robe and colored sash. The color of the sash distinguishes one group from another. Some of the pastors were greatly surprised to learn that we in Zion do not wear white robes. It seems that they had gotten the idea that all members of the Christian Catholic Church in Zion wore white robes from pictures in the early "Leaves of Healing" of our white-robed choir.

Many of the Amazioni groups hold weekly all-night meetings, beginning at around eight or nine o'clock on Saturday night. Again, they were surprised that this was not our custom in Zion, for they had read of the all-night meetings in the "Leaves." They did not realize that our "all-night meeting" was only on New Years Eve, and that that custom was continued only a short time.

Characteristic also of many of the groups is their use of the drum. One purpose of the drum is to liven up the singing, particularly during their all-night meetings. There may be upwards of eighty people gathered for a service in a room meant for one-third or half of that number. There is no room to be seated, so they stand for the entire service. When people begin to show signs of drowsiness, someone begins a chorus, accompanied by the drums, and the people do a half-shuffle, half-dance around the room. Once awake the sermon may begin again. Again, many were surprised to learn that we do not use drums in Zion.

The churches that we visited were

often widely scattered which meant a drive of three or four hours, then a service, then another drive for another three hours or so for service in another church. At one point, after traveling about ten hours, we were all very tired and feeling a bit sorry for ourselves until we met some ladies who had walked for three hours, with babies on their backs, to attend the service. By the way, the car that we traveled has gone over 500,000 miles, which is a tribute to the good mechanical ability of Edgar Mahon.

As Bob Peterson mentioned, the "This We Believe" booklet has brought more excitement and happiness than you can imagine. The Mahons have completed the translation into Zulu already and are working on translating it into two other languages. However, before it goes to press, another chapter will be added, giving a little of the history of the Christian Catholic Church in Africa. It is also being made into a Bible correspondance course with test questions after each chapter. Those who successfully complete the course will be given a certificate. There is a great eagerness to study this course and we pray that God may greatly use it to help give understanding to basic Bible doctrines.

Shortly after we arrived in South Africa, Edgar gave me a magazine, called "Point", very similar to our "Time", or "Newsweek". In it was an article telling of the largest gathering of people for any purpose which occurred last Easter when two million Amazioni met together for an Easter worship service. At the same time, another large gathering of several hundred thousand Amazioni met at the King's Palace in Swaziland for the observance of the Easter Service. This gathering was addressed by Rev. Onnie Lehman, whose mother, Dorothy Johnson, grew up in Zion, and who visited our church in Zion, January 12th, 1980.

Many other denominations have tried to work with the Amazioni people and bring them into their fellowship, but with little success. They have been fiercely independent. However, the Mahon Mission has a unique opportunity to reach out a helping hand to them because the Mahon Mission is part of the original Christian Catholic Church in South Africa - and went by that name for many, many years. Since most of the Amazioni pastors lack any Biblical training, many of their practices have not been in harmony with the Word of God. Some of the pastors

recognize this and sincerely desire help and teaching and are grateful to the Mahon Mission for providing this. More and more are turning to the Mahon Mission for instruction and guidance, which is a cause for great rejoicing.

It has also been gratifying to see that many of the Mahon Mission pastors are reaching out in love to the Amazioni and recognizing them as brothers and sisters in Christ despite their characteristic dress, the use of drums and peculiar forms of worship. It is very possible that in the next few years we could see a dramatic movement of God as more and more seek the truth of God's Word and way. Are we prepared to stand with and behind the Mahon Mission in the training of pastors and in providing literature for their spiritual growth? The Mahon Mission is the voice of the Christian Catholic Church in Southern Africa. We are one in heart, purpose, and doctrine. There are approximately seven million Amazioni in Southern Africa. Many of these are longing for fellowship with us and a greater understanding of the truth of God. We, too, have an unprecedented opportunity to share Jesus Christ. The realization of this is both staggering and exciting. What is our answer?

One day, in God's providence, we met a missionary couple from Great Britain who had been laboring in South Africa for forty years. Edgar introduced us, mentioning that we were from Zion. "From Zion?" he asked. "From the Christian Catholic Church?" "Yes," answered Edgar, "in fact, he is the General Overseer." This veteran missionary responded with, "Thank God you have come! For forty years I have longed and tried to help the Amazioni people, but they will accept no help from us. They only say 'We are the people of Zion.' Thank God you are here!"

One immediate need is for funds to print the "This We Believe" booklet into three African languages. Money is also needed for training Amazioni pastors, and for transportation costs for Edgar and others to visit Amazioni congregations. In addition, the Mahon Mission is in need and greatly worthy of our support. If each of us could give a little extra each month and designate it for the Mahon Mission, we could be used of God in a unique and tremendous way. It would surely seem that God's time is NOW! Let us go with God.

